

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard Mescher on September 23, 2008.

IN THE CLAIMS

- Claim 1, line 13 replaced "an actuator" with - - a linear actuator- -
- Claim 12, line 3 replaced "a slot-link type" with - -a slot- -
- Claim 18, line 16 replaced "the base" with - - a base - -

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Re clm 1, the prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious the claimed combination wherein comprising a detent profile, a secondary detent profile, a detent lever pivotably mounted to the base and secured to the pawl, wherein the linear actuator is secured to the base and has a pin extendable along a linear path extending through a slot in the detent lever and wherein each of the detent profile and the secondary detent profile is secured to the shifter lever to pivot relative to the base with the shifter lever.

Re clm 10, the prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious the claimed combination wherein comprising a detent profile, a secondary detent profile, a detent lever pivotably mounted to the base and secured to the pawl, wherein the linear actuator is secured to the base and has a pin extendable along a linear path perpendicular to the detent profile and wherein each of the detent profile and the secondary detent profile is secured to the shifter lever to pivot relative to the base with the shifter lever.

Re clm 18, the prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious the claimed combination wherein comprising a detent plate movable with the shifter lever, a pawl engaging the detent profile of the detent plate, a spring plate movable with the shifter lever, wherein the detent plate and the spring plate are substantially parallel and spaced part and are located on opposite lateral sides of the shifter, a spring lever engaging the secondary detent profile of the spring plate and wherein the pawl is carried by a detent lever and the detent lever and the spring lever are spaced apart and attached to a base on opposite lateral sides of the shifter.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES PILKINGTON whose telephone number is (571)272-5052. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7-3.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571)272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 3682
9/23/08

/Richard WL Ridley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3682